

## CLAIMS

1. An image forming apparatus in which an image forming speed can be changed in accordance with an  
5 image forming mode, comprising:  
a plurality of image forming means for forming images of different colors based on image information;  
transferring means for transferring the images  
10 formed by said plurality of image forming means sequentially in a superimposing manner;  
image discriminating means for automatically discriminating whether said image information is monochrome or multi-color;  
15 image discriminating operation selecting means for selecting whether or not said image discriminating means is to be operated; and  
mode selecting means for selecting between a monochrome image forming mode and a multi-color image  
20 forming mode when said image discriminating operation selecting means is not selected,  
wherein, when said image discriminating means is selected to be operated by said image discriminating operation selecting means, an image  
25 forming speed at a time of monochrome image forming and at a time of multi-color image forming is set to a first speed, irrespective of a result of

discrimination by said image discriminating means,  
and wherein, when said monochrome image forming  
mode is selected by said mode selecting means, an  
image forming speed at the time of monochrome image  
5 forming is set to a second speed that is higher than  
said first speed.

2. An image forming apparatus according to  
claim 1, wherein  
10 said image forming means comprises an image  
bearing member and scanning exposure means for  
performing scanning exposure in order to form a  
latent image on the image bearing member, and  
said scanning exposure means comprises a light  
15 source, a reflecting member that reflects light  
emitted from said light source while rotating, and  
driving means for rotating said reflecting member,  
and  
wherein when the image forming speed is changed,  
20 a driving speed of said driving means is changed.

3. An image forming apparatus according to  
claim 2, wherein when said monochrome image forming  
mode is selected by said mode selecting means, the  
25 driving speed of said driving means is changed prior  
to start of an image forming operation.

4. An image forming apparatus according to  
claim 1, wherein when said multi-color image forming  
mode is selected by said mode selecting means, the  
image forming speed at the time of multi-color image  
5 forming is set to said first speed.

5. An image forming apparatus according to  
claim 1, wherein said monochrome is black.

10 6. An image forming apparatus according to  
claim 1, said image discriminating means uses image  
information obtained by reading means that reads an  
original image.